to intensify the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue, and cooperation with Pakistan. One round of the Composite Dialogue (February-September 2004) was completed successfully. Wide ranging proposals for confidence building, promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields and enhancing commercial and economic relations were made by India. Both sides have been able to identify areas of convergence and future cooperation.

The process has been taken forward by high-level political contacts, including the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf in New York on September 24, 2004; and regular interactions between External Affairs Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. The visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC, also facilitated forward movement on the bilateral front. Government intends to continue with the dialogue process in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

The Government's Policy is that all outstanding issues have to be dealt with bilaterally as per the Shimla Agreement. There is no scope for any Third-party role or mediation.

Indo-ASEAN Conference

†1495. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of matters discussed during third Indo-ASEAN Conference;

(b) the details of issues raised by India; and

(c) the details of issues raised for peace and development and in what manner they would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) At the 3rd India-ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane, Loas on November 30, 2004 the leaders of India and ASEAN discussed international and regional issues as well as taking forward India-ASEAN cooperation in the economic sector, scientific and technological fields and people-to-people cooperation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India made proposals for enhancing its cooperation with ASEAN, including those on an Indian-ASEAN broadband high speed network, a net portal to enable visually impaired person access the internet, joint research and development in medicines, stockpiling of rarely used drugs in the region, cooperation for production of seed and exchange of germplasm for fruits and vegetables. The Prime Minister also offered concessional lines of credit upto US$200 million to eligible member countries of ASEAN. An agreement on "India-ASEAN Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity" that sets out a vision for a long term partnership between India and ASEAN was signed during the Summit. India-ASEAN cooperation is implemented through established mechanisms and regular discussions at the political and official level.

Offer of FBI'S help to India

1496. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Ambassador has recently offered the assistance of Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the serial blasts in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such offer has been received from any European countries also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware that the Government of United States of America have circulated a document earlier which seeks to alienate the North Eastern Region from the country; and

(f) whether Government have taken a view of this offer of assistance keeping in view the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.